

TRIBUTE TO THE WINNERS OF THE TAKE PRIDE IN CICERO AWARD

HON. WILLIAM O. LIPINSKI

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 1, 1996

Mr. LIPINSKI. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to the winners of the Take Pride in Cicero Award, which recognizes residents and businesses in the community for improving their property.

While many communities sponsor similar programs, Cicero, a community in my district, warrants special mention because of the leaps and bounds it has made in improving its image. While municipal government leaders have played an important role in this transformation, it is the residents, small businesses, and community organizations in Cicero who have been the real catalyst for this change. To recognize these efforts, the Take Pride in Cicero Award was established by the town government, Cicero Chamber of Commerce, and Life newspapers.

The winners of the Take Pride in Cicero Award in four different categories included: Ms. Geraldine Ceranek; Mr. Juan Perez; Mr. Clark Burkhardt; Mr. Edward Lopez; Seguin Services; Central Building Materials; St. Dionysius Church; Lang's Ace Hardware; CasaAmerica; Osco Drug; and Ms. Mary Rosario, with help from Habitat for Humanity.

Mr. Speaker, I commend the winners of this award and hope their spirit of community improvement spreads throughout Cicero and all the towns and villages of our great country.

“JUST SAY ‘WHOA’”

HON. CHARLES B. RANGEL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 1, 1996

Mr. RANGEL. Mr. Speaker, on behalf of the congressional narcotics abuse and control caucus, I would like to bring to my colleagues' attention the following article, “Just Say ‘Whoa’”, written by former First Lady Nancy Reagan, which appeared last month in the Wall Street Journal.

I rise to thank and congratulate her for her editorial, “Just Say ‘Whoa’”, which appeared in this week's Wall Street Journal. The article correctly described how apathy, neglect, and irresponsible attitudes have corrupted efforts to stem the trafficking and abuse of narcotics in this country. I share her outrage, but I am heartened to know that Mrs. Reagan's commitment to this Nation's future—our children—continues.

As Americans, we all hail from different backgrounds. Our ethnic, cultural, and spiritual diversity have served us well as sources of community, strength, and pride but occasionally test the strength of our Union. The one virtue that unites us all however, is our goal to provide a better future for children. This shared sense of destiny will always include a world free of drugs and the associated violence, crime, disease, and death. Increased drug use and tolerance by our children however, turns our dreams into nightmares.

As discouraging as the increase in the use of drugs by teens is the silence and indifference

of responsible policymakers who have ignored the fears of our children. Worse still are the people, both conservative and liberal, who perpetuate misguided rhetoric supporting legalization of this scourge. Such irresponsible behavior further erodes the ability of teachers, mentors, and parents to shield children from the seductive lure of drugs.

Instead of equivocating on the harms of drugs, we need to inspire, educate, train, and employ our young people. Opportunity and responsibility offer perhaps the best alternative to drug use. Instead of endlessly incarcerating our children at a shameful rate, we need to lift them up with hope and show them alternatives. It's time to act.

The article follows:

JUST SAY “WHOA”

(By Nancy Reagan)

Statistic released last fall from the annual Household Survey of Drug Use and, more recently, from the 21st annual Monitoring the Future Survey show that marijuana use among teenagers was up again last year. Where is the public outrage over this finding? When will this country realize that as long as we don't wake up and adopt a zero tolerance for drug use, we are heading down a path of no return? Must we lose another generation of children to the horrors of crack addiction? Must the statistics soar to all-time highs before we bother to take notice?

Last March I was invited to testify before a congressional committee, at which time I said: “I am not here to criticize or place blame, but after the great strides that were made just a few years back, I'm worried that this nation is forgetting how endangered our children are by drugs. I'm worried that for the first time in many years, tolerance for drugs and the mistaken perception that ‘everyone is doing it’ is creeping back into our national mentality. And I am worried that the psychological momentum we had against drug use has been lost.

“[Y]et it's more than worry,” I pleaded. “This weakening vigilance against the drug threat can have a tragic effect on this country for many years to come. . . . How could we have forgotten so quickly? Why is it we no longer hear the drumbeat of condemnation against drugs coming from our leaders and our culture? Is it any wonder drug use has started climbing again, and dramatically so?”

Regarding the drug use survey, NBC News reported: “‘Just Say No’ was an effective message in the ‘80s . . . in the ‘90s much more will be needed.” Denver drug counselor Bob Cota emphasized, “Kids have to be shown why they need to learn it early, in the third and fourth grades—and it has to be repeated often.”

Repeated often—like in the ‘80s when the national leadership was vigilant and visible. And yes, we do need even more now. In response to the 1994 Monitoring the Future Survey, Joseph Califano Jr., chairman and president of the Center on Addiction and Substance Abuse at Columbia University (CASA), warned: “If historical trends continue, the jump in marijuana use among America's children (age 12–18) from 1992 to 1994 signals that 820,000 more of these children will try cocaine in their lifetime. Of that number, about 58,000 will become regular cocaine users and addicts.” In a 1995 survey by CASA, adolescents said that drugs were their “number one” problem. Our children are crying out for help.

While drug use is on the rise, the perceived risk of drug use is on the decline. The two go hand in hand. Only a few short years ago, the constant message to young people—in the

media, in their classrooms, and in their homes—was that drugs lead to destruction. But where are those messages today? Those messages, those lessons, are what change perceptions, change attitudes, change lives. Each of us have a responsibility to bring back those messages—loud and clear.

Before the drug-use increases of the past three years, we really had seen marked progress. As I told the members of the committee: “A decade of effort was beginning to pay off. Attitudes were being changed. I don't mean to sit here and say that we had won the battle against drugs. I think it's plain we had not.” However, between 1985 and 1992, monthly cocaine use declined 78%, or to an annual rate of 3.1% from its peak of 13.1% in 1985. It's the same story with other numbers: Annual use of any illicit drug by high school seniors dropped to 27.1% in 1992 from 54.2% in 1979. “The battle was going forward one child at a time,” I said in March. “There was momentum, unity, intolerance of the exaggeration and glorification of drug use by the media—we were building peer support for saying ‘no.’ Children were being taught resistance skills—in short, there was progress.”

Now there is silence—and not without consequence. In 1994, twice the number of eighth-graders were experimenting with marijuana as did in 1991, and daily use of marijuana by high school seniors in 1994 was up by half from 1993. The 1995 Monitoring the Future Survey shows that daily use has made another jump.

We should all, as citizens of this great nation, be frightened by the latest drug statistics. We should all question what they mean to our futures and those of our children. We should all resolve not to be silent any longer. By the latest drug statistics and the renewed calls for legalization of marijuana, it is painfully obvious that our “letting up” is going to let down the young people of this country. It's time to just say “Whoa!”

TRIBUTE TO THE HONORABLE BETTY LOREN-MALTESE

HON. WILLIAM O. LIPINSKI

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 1, 1996

Mr. LIPINSKI. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to a leader in my district who has worked diligently to dramatically improve the quality of life in her community, Betty Loren-Maltese, town president of Cicero, IL. President Loren-Maltese was recently recognized for her efforts by Grit magazine which bestowed her with its True Grit Award for Distinguished Volunteer Service.

Although I could comment on the remarkable job president Loren-Maltese has done for her community in her less than 3 years in office, I will instead convey the words of the Cicero resident who nominated her for the award: “Cicero had a bad reputation. But because of town president Loren-Maltese, we can hold our heads up high. She has declared war on gangs, slums, and dope pushers and [is] making Cicero a haven for law-abiding citizens.”

Mr. Speaker, I congratulate president Loren-Maltese for receiving this prestigious award and the great job she has done as a leader of her community.

TRIBUTE TO ELMER "FUZZY"
MUELLER

HON. WILLIAM O. LIPINSKI

OF ILLINOIS
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 1, 1996

Mr. LIPINSKI. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to a true community servant in my district, Mr. Elmer Mueller, who was recently selected as the Pleasantview Fire Protection District Employee of the Year.

Mr. Mueller, or "Fuzzy," as he is known to virtually everyone, has served the district as a paid-on-call firefighter for 35 years, starting when the multicomunity district had two firehouses and two full-time employees. Now there are 4 facilities, 2 paramedic units, and 16 people on duty staffing the district around the clock.

Fuzzy's dedication has helped the department become one of the finest in the State. He currently oversees the district's air rehab unit, which provides sometimes life-saving air to firefighters and victims on the scene. The unit also provides a few comforts for his colleagues weary from battling a fire, like coffee, snacks, and blankets. Fuzzy also serves as treasurer, responsible for fundraising that helps cover the district's expenses and special programs, like providing bath thermometers to senior citizens so they will be less likely to scald themselves.

Fuzzy is also active in his church, Hope Lutheran in LaGrange, singing in the choir, and he only recently stepped down as coach of the church's softball team after 48 years.

In the words of his chief, Dan Hemers, Fuzzy "goes at it full-bore, does it on his own, and makes sure it's done right."

TRIBUTE TO KURT ENGEL, JOHN
SIEPLE, AND BOB BOYD

HON. WILLIAM O. LIPINSKI

OF ILLINOIS
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Mr. LIPINSKI. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to salute three teachers in my district who represent all that is good in education today—Mr. Kurt Engel, Mr. John Sieple, and Mr. Bob Boyd of Lyons Township, IL, High School. These three educators were recently honored as a Most Inspirational Teacher, an award for which they were nominated by former students.

Mr. Engel, a physics teacher and baseball and football coach, characterizes his teaching method as stepping back and putting yourself in the students' shoes and seeing how you're meeting their needs. Mr. Sieple, a psychology teacher and football coach, said he likes to use students' own experiences to illustrate the points he makes in class and believes teachers must be flexible for their students. Mr. Boyd, a music teacher and choral director at LTHS for 23 years, often gets to teach students from their freshman through senior years and says he finds it rewarding to witness the progression of their skills.

Mr. Speaker, I congratulate these three fine teachers on receiving this honor and wish them, and all other dedicated teachers in our

Nation, further success in shaping the minds and character of young people.

TRIBUTE TO CARYN M. SAIMO,
TOM HAYMES, AND EUGENE
WOJCICHOWSKI

HON. WILLIAM O. LIPINSKI

OF ILLINOIS
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 1, 1996

Mr. LIPINSKI. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to three heroic citizens who helped prevent three crimes in Berwyn, IL, in my district—Ms. Caryn Saimo of Berwyn, Mr. Tom Haymes of Berwyn, and Mr. Eugene Wojcichowski of Chicago. All three were recently honored with commendations by the police department and the city council of Berwyn for their efforts in preventing crimes and apprehending criminals in the community.

Ms. Saimo stepped in to physically rescue an 11-year-old girl who was the victim of an abduction attempt and provided information to the police on the attacker. Mr. Wojcichowski pursued a purse snatcher and helped police catch him. Mr. Haymes' telephone call to the police about a suspicious stranger in his apartment building led police to recover \$1,400 in stolen property in the suspect's car.

Mr. Speaker, I congratulate these three individuals on their willingness to get involved and not look the other way, and I hope that all Americans develop their spirit of responsibility in our war against criminals.